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ROUTINE MEA BRIEF.

(NDEORN IN SLANTS)

SUBJECT: MIDDLE EAST/AFRICA BRIEF 1986.

FOR 31 MARCH

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FROM: DDI/O/CPAS

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6. IN BRIEF

Approved for Release Date -1111 ----- 1999-



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1. SOUTH YEMEN: RECONCILIATION DOUBTFUL

//INFIGHTING IN ADEN APPEARS TO BE INCREASING, AND THE SOVIETS MAY BE TRYING TO BROKER A RECONCILIATION TO PREVENT ANOTHER POLITICAL EXPLOSION.//

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//HARDLINERS WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT APPEAR TO BE GAINING THE UPPER HAND IN ADEN, AT LEAST FOR THE MOMENT. ATTAS'S NONPARTICIPATION IN THE SANAA TALKS AND HIS FAILURE TO APPEAR IN PUBLIC SINCE MID-MARCH SUGGEST HE MAY BE LOSING WHAT INFLUENCE HE HAD IN THE GOVERNMENT. MOSCOW WANTS TO PREVENT THE SITUATION FROM DETERIORATING FURTHER BUT IS HAMPERED BY THE VARIOUS FACTIONS' UNWILLINGNESS TO COMPROMISE AND THE BY LACK OF A STRONG LEADER IT CAN SUPPORT.//

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//ADEN'S REPRESENTATIVES AT THE RECONCILIATION MEETING, IF IT TAKES PLACE, ARE UNLIKELY TO BE FORTHCOMING, MAKING A SUCCESSFUL MEETING UNLIKELY. THE SOUTH YEMENIS' LACK OF TPUST IN THEIR LEADERS WILL LIMIT RESPONSE TO THE AMNESTY.//

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2. USSR-ALGERIA: BENDJEDID'S MOSCOW VISIT

//THE KREMLIN WENT OUT OF ITS WAY TO MAKE ALGERIAN PRESIDENT BENDJEDID'S THREE-DAY TRIP TO MOSCOW LAST WEEK A SUCCESS, AND BOTH SIDES PUBLICLY ACCENTED POSITIVE ASPECTS OF THEIR RELATIONS, BUT THE VISIT DOES NOT APPEAR TO HAVE REVERSED ALGERIA'S SLOW SHIFT TOWARD GENUINE NONALIGNMENT.

//SOVIET GENERAL SECRETARY GORBACHEY **VE BENDJEDID MORE TIME

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THAN IS GIVEN TO MOST FOREIGN LEADERS DURING STATE VISITS. THE TWO MEN MET FIVE TIMES, ONCE PRIVATELY, AND TASS DESCRIBED THE DISCUSSIONS AS ''WARM AND FRIENDLY.'' TWO NEW ECONOMIC AGREEMENTS--ONE A LONG-TERM COOPERATION ACCORD--AND A PROTOCOL ON POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS WERE SIGNED. DEFENSE MINISTER SOKOLOV AND ALGERIAN DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF ABBERRAHIM TOOK PART IN THE TALKS. GORBACHEV ACCEPTED AN INVITATION TO VISIT ALGERIA BUT DID NOT SPECIFY WHEN HE WOULD MAKE SUCH A IRIP. //

//THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE APPEARS DESIGNED TO IGNORE DIFFERENCES AND GIVE THE IMPRESSION OF IMPROVING RELATIONS BY REITERATING A MUTUAL DESIRE TO ''DEEPEN'' LONG-TERM COOPERATION. THE FOREIGN POLICY SECTION WAS COMPREHENSIVE BUT WAS DIRECTLY CRITICAL OF THE US 63 ONLY IN REFERENCE TO THE ARAB-ISRAEL1 CONFLICT AND THE RECENT-CONFRONTATION WITH LIBYA.//

//ALGERIA DID NOT ENDORSE GORBACHEV'S PROPOSAL. MADE DURING BENDJEDID'S VISIT, FOR THE REMOVAL OF BOTH SUPERPOWERS' NAVAL PRESENCE FROM THE MEDITERRANEAN BUT DID AGREE ON THE NEED FOR A MEDITERRANEAN NUCLEAR-FREE ZONE AND PREVENTION OF AN ARMS RACE IN SPACE. MOSCOW, FOR ITS PART, MOVED NO CLOSER TO ALGERIA'S POSITION ON WESTERN SAHARA, SUPPORTING ONLY STANDING UN RESOLUTIONS./A

//MOSCOW PROBABLY WAS EAGER TO MAKE THE TRIP A SUCCESS · OUT OF CONCERN OVER ALGERIA'S INCREASING NEUTRALITY. BENDUEDID PROBABLY SAW THE TRIP AS BALANCING HIS US VISIT LAST YEAR. COVERAGE OF THE TALKS SUGGESTS THEY WERE CONSIDERABLY MORE UPBEAT THAN THOSE DURING BENDJEDID'S LAST VISIT TO MOSCOW IN 1981. GORBACHEV IS MORE LIKELY TO TRAVEL TO NORTH AFRICA THAN ANY OF HIS PREDECESSORS, BUT FOREIGN MINISTER SHEVARDNADZE WILL PROBABLY VISIT FIRST.//I

//THE REFERENCES IN THE COMMUNIQUE TO STRENGTHENING FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION AND THE PROTOCOL ON POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS SUGGEST MOSCOW MAY BE PUSHING FOR A FRIENDSHIP TREATY. ALTHOUGH THE COMMUNIQUE SHOWS BENDJEDID IS WILLING TO SIDE WITH MOSCOW ON ISSUES $m{b}$ OF MUTUAL INTEREST, HE IS RELUCTANT TO DO SO ON THOSE THAT WOULD COMPROMISE ALGERIA'S NONALIGNMENT.

3. LEBANON: NABIH BARRI'S PROSPECTS

//MODERATE AMAL LEADER NABIH BARRI IS STEADILY LOSING POWER TO THE RADICAL SHIA HIZBALLAH. //

//SEVERAL FACTORS HAVE UNDERCUT BARRI'S LEADERSHIP. RECENT HIZBALLAH ACTIONS, ESPECIALLY THE CLAIMED EXECUTION OF A FRENCH HOSTAGE AND THE SEIZURE OF TWO ISRAELI SOLDIERS. HAVE CONVINCED MANY

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WILL HAVE A CURRENT ACCOUNT SURPLUS OF SOME \$2 BILLION IN 1986, WHICH WILL GIVE THE NATION THE WHEREWITHAL TO MAKE ITS PAYMENTS. PROVIDED MOST CREDITORS CONTINUE TO RENEW LOANS NOT COVERED BY THE DEFERRAL. IF BLACK UNREST PERSISTS, AS IS LIKELY, CREDITORS NEXT YEAR MAY AGAIN RESORT TO A SHORT DEBT DEFERRAL IN LIEU OF A RESCHEDULING AGREEMENT TO KEEP THE APPEARANCE OF PUTTING PRESSURE ON SOUTH AFRICA. AN INCREASE IN VIOLENCE WOULD SPEED SOUTH AFRICA'S ECONOMIC ISOLATION, CUTTING FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR DEBT REPAYMENT AND PERHAPS TRIGGERING NEW CRISES OF CREDITOR CONFIDENCE.//

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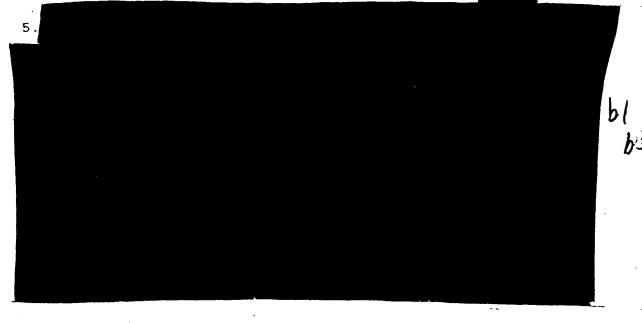
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6. IN BRIEFS

AFRICA

-- //SOMALIA RESISTING UN, WESTERN PRESSURE TO MOVE ETHIOPIAN REFUGEES FROM BORDER AREA . . . FEARS SECURITY THREAT, OPPOSITION FROM LOCAL POPULATION . . . COMING RAINS WILL REDUCE FOOD, MEDICAL SUPPLIES, CAUSE EPIDEMIC AT PRESENT CAMP.//

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